Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /116 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UCS:AFMERRILL:MW APPROVED BY IO/UCS:JEUPSTON IO - INFO IO/UNESCO - INFO DESIRED DISTRIBUTION IO

----- 070898

R 082122Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 107679

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SOPN UNESCO

SUBJECT: U.S. CITIZENS GROUP URGES UNESCO RESCIND SANCTIONS

AGAINST ISRAEL

- 1. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. NATCOM FOR UNESCO, AN ADVISORY BODY OF PRIVATE CITIZENS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, TODAY EXPRESSED ITS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE "POLITICALLY INSPIRED" SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL AND URGED UNESCO TO CORRECT THE "UNPRECEDENTED POLITICAL ACTIONS" OF ITS 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE LAST FALL.
- 2. MOTIVATED BY THE U.S. NATCOM'S FEAR THAT UNESCO IS IN GREAT JEOPARDY IF THE CONTROVERSY IS NOT RESOLVED AND THE U.S. CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN UNESCO, THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH THE MONTH-LONG MEETING IN PARIS OF UNESCO'S UNCLASSIFIED

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EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE 40-MEMBER GOVERNING BODY OF THAT

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH MEETS BETWEEN ITS BIENNIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE:

"AFFIRMING THE POSITION OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE LAST NOVEMBER, WE DEPLORE THE SANCTIONS TAKEN AGAINST ISRAEL AS BLATANTLY POLITICAL AND CONTRARY TO THE PURPOSE AND MISSION OF UNESCO. WE URGE THE U.S. STATE DEPT THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO THAT BOARD TO INITIATE WHATEVER STEPS ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY

POSSIBLE BY THAT BODY TO CORRECT THE UNPRECEDENTED POLITICAL ACTIONS OF THE 18TH CONFERENCE. IN PARTICULAR, WE EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION ON THE EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM FULL AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ANY REGIONAL GROUP OF UNESCO--AN ACTION CERTAINLY CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT UPON WHICH THIS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED.

"IN OUR OPINION, FORTHRIGHT STEPS BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO TO COUNTERACT OR REDRESS THE POLITICALLY INSPIRED SANCTIONS TAKEN AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD GO FAR TOWARD CONVINCING THE U.S. CONGRESS THAT UNESCO HAS RETURNED TO ITS BASIC PURPOSE, AND THUS ASSURE THAT THE U.S. COULD CONTINUE AS A DUES-PAYING, FULLY ACTIVE MEMBER IN HELPING TO CARRY ON THE WORLDWIDE HUMANITARIAN WORK OF UNESCO."

3. THE FOREGOING IS FROM A NATCOM PRESS RELEASE OF MAY 6, A COPY OF WHICH HAS BEEN FURNISHED SURECK FOR TELEX TRANSMISSION BY HIM TO OPI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PUBLIC ATTITUDES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, SANCTIONS Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975STATE107679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AFMERRILL:MW Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750162-0625

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750569/aaaackop.tel Line Count: 91

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ORIGIN IO Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ShawDG

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 16 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review

05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: U.S. CITIZENS GROUP URGES UNESCO RESCIND SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

TAGS: SOPN, US, IS, UNESCO

To: PARIS

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006